

armoury; but he did. Many years ago the Court-house was torn down, and the site was converted into a public park and it is reported that the Court has held that this worked a reverter of the land. Probably William would not have insisted on his right in the premises.—*Green Bag*.

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MR. ASQUITH, who will return to the Courts at the beginning of the Michaelmas Sittings, will not, it is said, practice in criminal Courts. The obvious reason for this restriction of his practice is that he has been Home Secretary, and may possibly occupy the office again. In criminal cases he has acted as a kind of Court of Appeal, and it would certainly be undesirable for him to appear as an advocate in a criminal trial after occupying a semi-judicial position, and with the possibility of being called upon to review the evidence in an official capacity. We regard it as a matter for regret that Mr. Asquith is returning to the courts at all.—*Law Journal*, Eng.

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THEY are smart in America are the lawyers. One of our staff, who has just returned from the States, says that at the office of a New York lawyer he was surprised to find the office boy reading the paper. He mentioned the fact to the lawyer that in England office boys read newspapers surreptitiously, but in America openly. "Ah!" said the lawyer, "that's all right. The first thing my office boy has to do after sweeping and dusting the office, is to look at the notices in the morning papers: in the case of births he has to send one of the circulars of the insurance company for which I am agent pointing out the advantages of early insurance; death notices, one of my circulars showing charges for probates, &c.; marriage notices, one of my circulars

on "Divorce Made Easy" to each bride and bridegroom, in separate sealed envelopes." We are unwilling to disbelieve any member of our staff, but we seem to have heard this before.—*Law Notes*, Eng.

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THE *Law Journal* for the 21st ult. has an amusing little article on the word "gentleman." It begins by quoting from Smith's "*De Republica Anglorum*," published in 1583, to the effect that "Who can live idly and without manual labor . . . shall be taken for a gentleman." It then quotes a number of decisions on the Bills of Sale Acts showing that "gentleman" is not a correct description of a grantor of a bill of sale if such grantor is a clerk in the Audit Office, or a solicitor, or a solicitor's clerk, or a buyer of silks, or a commission agent; but it is a correct description if the grantor has never had an occupation, or is a coal agent out of employ, or a clerk out of a place and living on an allowance from his mother." The article finishes with a quotation from Irving Brown: "So it seems one who does not work for his living, but lives on his relatives, is a gentleman."

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THE ABSENT-MINDED WITNESS.—An incident at a trial in Buckport this week furnished much amusement. An eccentric farmer, who took the stand, became rather vehement in his testimony, and, further, persisted in putting his hat on his head, not realizing the gravity of the situation. Although reprimanded by the judge two or three times the farmer still continued to clap on his dicer every few minutes. The judge finally ordered him to be arrested and locked up for contempt of court. He was released and led back into the court room in about ten minutes—where he apologized to the judge—but